

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have amended the claims to place the application in condition for allowance, and respectfully request entry of this after-final amendment. Claims 29-72, 76, 82-89 and 96-101 are pending in the application. Claims 1-28, 73-75, 77-81 and 90-95 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 29-72, 76 and 96-101 have been allowed. Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating claims 82-89 are directed to allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if claim 82 was rewritten in independent form and if §112, second paragraph, rejections were overcome.

By this amendment, rejected claims 1-28, 73-75, 77-81 and 90-95 have been cancelled, and claim 82 has been recast into independent form overcoming the §112 rejection, thus rendering claims 82-89 allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner let pending claims 29-72, 76, 82-89 and 96-101 pass to issue.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 73-75 and 77-95 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for lacking antecedent basis. Applicants have cancelled claims 73-75, 77-81 and 90-95, thus rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Applicants have also amended claim 82 in order to overcome the §112, second paragraph rejection of claims 82-89, and therefore respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-10, 28, 73-75, 77-81 and 90-92 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b), as being anticipated by Watters (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,324). Applicants have cancelled these claims, thus rendering this rejection moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 11-27 and 93-95 are rejected under 35 USC § 103, as being unpatentable over Watters (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,324) in view of Maki (U.S. Patent No. 5,323,163). Applicants have cancelled these claims, thus rendering this rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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